

METHOD FOR THE ULTRASOUND MEASURING OF LAYER THICKNESSES OF  
CLADDING TUBES FOR NUCLEAR FUEL

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Cross-Reference to Related Application:

This application is a continuation of copending International Application No. PCT/EP02/02888, filed March 15, 2002, which designated the United States and was not published in English.

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Background of the Invention:

Field of the Invention:

The invention relates to a method for the ultrasound measuring of the thickness of layers of cladding tubes for nuclear fuel.

15 Such tubes have a wall thickness of 1 mm and smaller.

Externally or internally they are provided with multiple duplex or liner layers. The thickness of liner layers is frequently 0.15 mm and smaller.

20 United States Patent No. 4,918,989 to Desruelles et al. describes a method for determining the liner layer thickness of a cladding tube for nuclear fuel in which the sound is launched across an initial water path in an immersion technique. However, only liner layer thicknesses above 0.4 mm 25 can be determined with sufficient accuracy by the disclosed method.